

Message Text

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COM/BIC/OIM (INFO)

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----- 014718

P 022037Z PEB 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY KABUL PRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY TEHRAN PRIORITY

UNCLAS STATE 025152

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BENC, AF, IR

SUBJECT: MAJOR PROJECTS: FEASIBILITY STUDY FOR GAS

--- LIQUEFACTION

REF: A) KABUL 0434, B) KABUL 8413, C) KABUL 5701

1. ON JANUARY 30, PROCON (DIVISION OF UOP) CONTACTED COMMERCE/MEPD RE SUBJECT PROJECT. PROCON HAD JUST RECEIVED TENDER DOCUMENT AND EXPRESSED CONCERN REGARDING FEBRUARY 15 DEADLINE FOR BIDS. COMPANY FULLY INTENDS TO MAKE PROPOSAL, BUT COULD NOT POSSIBLY PREPARE SERIOUS AND THOROUGH "LUMP SUM" BID IN TWO WEEKS, ESPECIALLY WITHOUT BETTER IDEA OF EXPECTED RESPONSIBILITIES, NEEDS, AND LOCAL CONDITIONS.

2. PROCON HAS REQUESTED EMBASSY ASSISTANCE IN OBTAINING EXTENTION OF BID DEADLINE TO MARCH 1 OR LATER. THIS WOULD GIVE COMPANY TIME TO SEND ONE OR MORE REPRESENTATIVES TO KABUL AND TO PREPARE COMPLETE PROPOSAL FOR PRE-UNCLASSIFIED

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SENTATION TO TOUFIQI.

3. PROCON ENVISIONS A COMPREHENSIVE STUDY OF GAS RESOURCES, INCLUDING EXPLORATION OF ALL POSSIBLE

ALTERNATIVE USES OF GAS AND NECESSARY PLANT AND INFRASTRUCTURE REQUIREMENTS, ETC., IN ORDER FOR THE COMPANY TO MAKE WELL-GROUNDED CONCLUSIONS ON MOST ECONOMIC APPROACH TO DEVELOPMENT. (WE NOTE THAT SUCH A STUDY COULD TAKE THE PLACE OF INDIVIDUAL FEASIBILITY STUDIES ON EACH CONTEMPLATED GAS UTILIZATION PROJECT.) STUDY WOULD RESULT ESSENTIALLY IN COMPANY RECOMMENDATIONS ON EXACTLY WHAT TO DO WITH GAS AND WHAT TO BUILD. PROCON HAS JUST COMPLETED SIMILAR STUDY FOR GOVERNMENT OF IRAQ.

4. PROCON IS ONE OF MOST HIGHLY QUALIFIED AND EXPERIENCED FIRMS IN THE WORLD IN ENGINEERING AND CONSTRUCTION OF NATURAL GAS UTILIZATION FACILITIES. COMPANY HAS ALREADY SHOWN INTEREST IN AFGHANISTAN BY SENDING REPRESENTATIVE TO KABUL (UOP REP ROBERT RAYMOND PER REF C) TO DISCUSS NATURAL GAS AND MINERALS DEVELOPMENT. REQUEST EMBASSY ADVISE TOUFIQI OF COMPANY'S SERIOUS INTENT TO MAKE PROPOSAL AND DO ALL POSSIBLE TO CONVINCE HIM TO BE FLEXIBLE ON BID DEADLINE AND SCOPE OF STUDY. PLEASE ADVISE SOONEST, AS PROCON ALREADY UNDERTAKING PREPARATION OF PROPOSAL. INGERSOLL

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NNN

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** UNCLASSIFIED

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